

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Needle.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: I think that should be left to the General Assembly, Delegate Wheatley. I think a 90- or 120-day provision would be appropriate but I would hesitate to write it into the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Wheatley.

DELEGATE WHEATLEY: We are presented with this, "as provided by law," is that correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Needle.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: That is my intention.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

*(There was no response.)*

Are you ready for the question?

*(Call for the question.)*

The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The question arises on the adoption of Amendment No. 3 to Committee Recommendation GP-8.

A vote Aye is a vote in favor of Amendment No. 3. A vote No is a vote against. Cast your votes.

Has every delegate voted? Does any delegate desire to change his vote?

*(There was no response.)*

The Clerk will record the vote.

There being 53 votes in the affirmative and 67 in the negative, the motion is lost. The amendment is rejected.

The next amendment is E. This will be Amendment No. 4.

The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 4 to Committee Recommendation GP-8, by Delegates Needle, Hardwicke and Sollins:

On page 1 in lines 11 and 12 strike out the following: "twenty-five" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty".

THE CHAIRMAN: Amendment submitted by Delegate Needle, seconded by Delegates Hardwicke and Sollins. The Chair recognizes Delegate Needle.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: I am told by my seat-mates I have a winner this time. I see I am gaining strength. I hope we have overwhelming support for this amendment

and you will approve all the others unanimously.

Maryland, with the present twenty-year duration between those periods in which the question of calling a constitutional convention is placed on the ballot, is one of nine states that have that provision. I do not know where Delegate Boyer got his figures. You had a research paper also done on this question. I find only one state that has a twenty-five year provision as his Committee recommends. I find that most of the states average approximately ten or twelve years. I think the model state constitution has a fifteen year provision.

I think increasing the duration is a step in the wrong direction. As I stated earlier, I would prefer to see a shorter period of time but I will settle for the twenty years we now have.

Taken with the other provisions and your failure to adopt the earlier amendments which would ease the procedure by which a constitutional convention could be called, I think it is compelling that you provide that it be placed on the ballot at least every twenty years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Boyer.

DELEGATE BOYER: Mr. Chairman, again in support of the committee recommendation, I would urge rejection of this amendment. We felt, as I reviewed before, that there are many arguments for a mandatory submission to the people at a twenty-five year interval the question of a constitutional convention. We felt there would be greater trust placed in a legislature that is going to be obviously more regularly apportioned and more responsible to the people. We here in this convention are trying to build up a stronger branch of government both in the executive, judicial and legislative departments and this would be one good basic example of the trust we have in the General Assembly we are trying to strengthen.

We felt that the arguments for a twenty-five year mandatory submission would not only give greater trust and faith in the General Assembly, but that it would certainly help to give this constitution that we are adopting now a more liberal chance to settle down and iron the wrinkles out of the many problems that are going to arise in the transitional period from the Convention of the Constitution of 1867 to the one of the miracle Convention of 1967.

We strongly urge that the Committee Recommendation be upheld because we have gone into this and heard witnesses from